

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 /102 W

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R 191143Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7808

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, XF, TU, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRO-TUNISIAN TALKS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MIDDLE
EAST, AFRICAN SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

REF: VIENNA 1032

1. MFA DIRECTOR AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS, MINISTER KARL
RAUSCHER, TOLD EMBOFF THAT DISCUSSIONS DURING VISIT TO
AUSTRIA OF TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY FEBRUARY
9-11 FOCUSSED ALMOST ENTIRELY UPON ECONOMIC RELATIONS,
WHICH ARE SUBJECT OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT AUSTRIANS HOPE
TO SIGN AT TUNIS LATER THIS YEAR. MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM
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WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AND FINAL COMMUNIQUE STRESSED IN

THIS CONNECTION THAT "BOTH SIDES WERE ABLE TO NOTE A FAR-REACHING SIMILARITY OF POSITIONS AND EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT A PEACEFUL AND COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION OF THE REGION'S PROBLEMS IS SUITABLE FOR PRESERVING WORLD PEACE".

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, CHATTY TOLD AUSTRIANS THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA FAVORED RETURN TO U.N. RESOLUTION OF 1947 AS BASIS FOR MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE TURNED TO SUBJECT IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH VIENNA PAPER "KURIER" IN WHICH HE SAID PLO WAS READY TO ACCEPT JEWISH STATE, BUT ONLY IF ISRAEL WITHDRAWS TO BORDERS STIPULATED IN 1947 PARTITION. CHATTY SAID TUNISIANS HAD CHECKED THIS POSITION WITH PALESTINIANS, WHO AGREED, PROVIDED ISRAEL FULFILLED ALL CONDITIONS OF UN RESOLUTION.

3. RAUSCHER COMMENTED THAT ON BASIS OF CONVERSATIONS WITH TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR AT VIENNA, HE WAS NEVER QUITE SURE WHERE TUNISIANS STOOD ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUE. AMBASSADOR HAD MENTIONED IDEA OF RETURN TO 1947 RESOLUTION IN PAST, BUT DISCUSSION WITH CHATTY NOW INDICATED TUNISIANS REALLY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT SETTLEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED ON PROXIMATE BASIS OF 1947 UN RESOLUTION BUT FELT RATHER THAT IF ANY BASIS COULD BE FOUND UPON WHICH ISRAELIS AND PLO COULD BEGIN TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS DIRECTLY, OTHER ARABS COULD GRADUALLY BACK AWAY FROM PRESENT OVER-COMMITMENTS TO PLO.

4. CHATTY TOLD PRESS ON HIS DEPARTURE THAT TUNISIA AND SENEGAL PLANNED TO INITIATE AN AFRICAN SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. RAUSCHER SAID CHATTY COULD HAVE DISCUSSED THIS IDEA PRIVATELY WITH CHANCELLOR KREISKY OR AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI). SI OFFICIALS TOLD EMBOFF PLAN WAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH THEM. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AGREEMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENNA01293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760063-0792
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760232/aaaabcbi.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 VIENNA 1032
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRO-TUNISIAN TALKS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICAN SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
TAGS: PFOR, XF, TU, AU, (CHATTI, HABIB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006